



TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Jill R. Myers
Town Manager

TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jill R. Myers, Town Manager

DATE: September 21, 2007

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report for the BOS Meeting of September 24, 2007

Budget Summits: The first Budget Summit took place on Wednesday, September 19th. Subsequent Summits are scheduled for October 10, and November 7. I will convene a Department Head meeting to discuss follow-up to the items and suggestions discussed at the first summit.

Group Insurance Commission (GIC) Information Session with Retiree and Union Reps – Sept 11: The legislation to allow for municipalities to join the GIC was signed by the Governor on July 27, 2007. Information sessions were then held throughout the state the weeks of 8/13 and 8/20. A GIC informational session with union representatives and the retiree representative was held on Tuesday, September 11th. Also present were national and regional representatives from the MTA, and a representative from MAPC on behalf of the GIC. The unions received formal notification on August 28, 2007 to institute a Public Employees Committee (PEC) to negotiate whether the Town should join the GIC. Such action for FY09 needs to be communicated to the GIC by October 1, 2007.

Town Hall Boiler Replacement: Despite efforts to have the boilers in the Town Hall replaced with a new, energy efficient system - prior to the end of the summer, we were not successful in obtaining bids through our RFP process. However, we are working with the state IG's Office to determine how to proceed with the project - selecting a vendor for this job, following an unsuccessful bid solicitation. It is the consensus that the proposed system is still preferred. We replaced one of the boilers last year, and the remaining three are in poor shape.

Annual Town Report: All Town Committees, Boards and Department Heads have received notice that their Annual Town Report is due by November 1st. I anticipate that since the Department Heads have been providing monthly reports, that it should not be such a burdensome task. The intention is to work with the same graphic artist and printing company from the last two years as we continue to receive praise on the newer format of our publication. We look forward to working with the BOS subcommittee on this project.

Bernat Mill Fire Recovery Efforts: Megan DiPrete has continued to coordinate the resources and information assistance. She has met with state and federal agency representatives to seek opportunities for either technical assistance or grant funding on the economic development recovery and planning. We have also met with the Uxbridge Business Association and continue meetings with the Bernat Mill task force which includes the Lt. Governor and legislative delegation. We have compiled the cost for the Town's recovery efforts (separate memo), and the delegation has filed special legislation. Representative DiLeo, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, will be in Uxbridge to view the site and meet with local officials.

Four-Town Planning Project Meeting 9/10/07: Megan DiPrete attended a meeting regarding the 4-Town project. In addition to several local officials, there were a number of people present from MOBD (Mass Office of Business Dev), Mass Development and Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). A black/white copy of the 4-Town Planning Study (Route 146 Corridor Visioning Study Phase I report) was provided - dated August 31, 200, as prepared by Daylor Consulting Group. We have a DVD of it as well.

Where the 1700 acre project area includes many property owners, the discussion was about how Mass Development might assist in this particular process. Mass Development indicated that they might be able to help coordinate property owners, consultants and so forth.

Douglas Selectmen Paula Brouillette indicated that there is a Blackstone Valley Boards of Selectmen's meeting on October 4. There might be an opportunity at that time to have the 4-Town Boards break out for a discussion of "next steps." One of the potential "next steps" is to consider having the towns name property within the 4-Town area as Priority Development (43D) sites. Because Uxbridge already has a 43D grant, additional funding would not be available. But other towns might be able to apply for/receive funding. There was discussion about the cost/benefit of coordinating through CMRPC. It is likely that the towns will be asked for another financial contribution (demonstrating continued commitment) at the May 2008 town meetings.

Also, there was discussion of Chapter 40T which parallels the funding legislation she previously researched – if adopted, this new chapter of the state MGL's would provide a framework for funding infrastructure improvements in a designated area. It could serve as a framework for developing a permit process that transcends the municipal boundaries. (information about this legislation is available at www.chapter40t.com).

Office Renovations and Relocations: The former Planning is in the final phase of remodeling and once completed, the Town Accountant's Office will be relocating to this space. The current Town Accountant's office will then be converted into the Conservation Office, and the current Conservation Office will become the office of the Director of Planning and Economic Development. The current Building Department office will be remodeled to include a counter space so that customers do not have to line up in the hallway. The three inspectors will be located in the current Building Inspector's office and the two support staff will remain in the office which they currently share. A new sign for the lobby will indicate if any customers require assistance, a staff member will service them on the first floor.